

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 09/810,965 filed on March 17, 2001. The Examiner has objected to the drawings on the basis that a description is to be provided in addition to reference numbers to blocks in the block diagram. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pecone et al. (U.S. Patent number 5,745,795. Claims 6-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pecone et al.

Objection to the Drawings

New figures are attached. The applicants have supplied new figures 1 and 2 to supply a description in addition to the reference number, facilitating usefulness of the block diagrams. The applicants have also supplied figures 3-6 on different sheets, but without inclusion of description of the basis that these figures, as pictorial rather than diagrammatic in nature, are clearer without the clutter imposed by descriptive reference in a limited space. If the Examiner does not agree, further amendments may be provided.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, the claims are amended to clarify language and enable meaning to be ascertained. Claims 9 and 13 are amended to make a slight punctuation correction.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Pecone et al, the amended claims distinguish over Pecone et al. in several aspects. Pecone

et al. does not disclose either the first or second backplane connector but rather discloses a SCSI adapter (22) with a single external SCSI connector (30). The Y-cable (70), connector (72), cable legs (74, 76), and connectors (79, 80) are not part of the bus controller card and are not backplane connectors, but rather external SCSI connectors.

Pecone et al. does not disclose a bus controller card in which the card makes the selection between the association of the first and second backplane connectors to the first and the second buses, for example as disclosed on page 7, line 20 to page 8, line 1. In Pecone et al, the selection for connection of buses to connectors is made by physical or manual connection, rather than by electronic selection.

Pecone et al. does not disclose a card in which first and second bus address control switches control bus addressing independent of the first and second bus connections to the first and second backplane connectors. The concept of independence of bus connections to backplane connectors as claimed is irrelevant and unrelated to the Pecone et al. disclosure. For example, considering Figures 3 and 4 of Pecone et al. if a regular cable is attached to the connector 30, then SCSI bus1 (B) will extend to the single connector on the regular cable. If the special Y cable is attached, SCSI bus0 (A) and SCSI bus1 (B) will attach to particular connectors 79 and 80 based on the connections within the cables, irrelevant and uncontrollable by anything on the SCSI adapter.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 15-17, the amended claims distinguish over Pecone et al. at least on the basis that Pecone et al. does not disclose any of the placing, setting, and inserting actions as claimed in independent claim 15, nor discloses the content of claims 16 and 17.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Regarding the rejection of Claims 6-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pecone et al, the applicants traverse the rejections on the basis that Pecone et al. does not disclose either the first or second backplane connector but rather discloses a SCSI adapter (22) with a single external SCSI connector (30). The applicants further traverse the rejections

on the basis that the applicants claim more than the mere usage of pairs of the controller cards, backplane connectors, host connectors, and the like, that would be subject to Official Notice since the interactions between the various components, as claimed, are more than "clearly within the level of skill in the art".

Amendments to the Specification

The applicants have amended the specification to update information in the cross-references on pages 1 and 2, and to correct minor grammatical and numbering errors in the specification on pages 4 and 9. No new matter is added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant believes Claims 1-17 are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. No new matter has been added. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

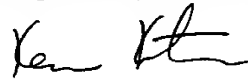
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Technology Center 2100 at (703) 746-5661 on the date shown below:


(Signature)

Ken J. Koestner
(Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)

December 12, 2003
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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